

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 10, 19, 20, 22 and 23 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-24 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections:

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, 15 and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,636,973 to Novoa; claims 4, 5, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Novoa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,445,777 to Clark; and claims 7-9 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Novoa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,659 to Kogo et al. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Independent Claims 1 and 10:

In its rejection of claim 1, the Office Action asserts that column 8, lines 19-35 of Novoa discloses that the local computer receives the password from the personal verification system and sends the received password to the remote computer for user identification. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In the presently claimed invention, as exemplified by the system shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, there are essentially three (3) entities: a) local computer 21, 31, b) personal verification system 42, c) remote computer 12

(with common resources 11). In the present invention, a user at a local computer 21, 31 desires to access data from the remote computer 122, whereby that data is stored in the common resources database 11 that is accessible only by way of the remote computer 12. In order to do this, the user must be verified by a personal verification system 42 that is separate and distinct from the remote computer 12.

Turning now to Novoa, column 8, lines 19-35 of Novoa describes that a newly generated password is transmitted by a file server 102 to a client 208, whereby the client 208 then sends that newly generated password back to the file server 102 in step 322 of Figure 3 of Novoa. A biometrics account manager, which is a part of Novoa's file server 102, compares the username and password received from the client 208 with a list of usernames and passwords stored in a database at the file server 102, and if there is a match, the log on process is completed.

Thus, in the system of Novoa, unlike that of the presently claimed invention, a file server performs both user verification and authentication. In the present invention, on the contrary, a personal verification system (separate and distinct from a remote computer) is used to verify a user, and a remote computer is then used to authenticate the user.

Clearly, the claimed system is patentably distinct from that described in Novoa, and thus claim 1 is not anticipated by Novoa.

Method claim 10 recites similar features to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and thus presently pending independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the disclosure of Novoa.

Dependent Claims:

The presently pending dependent claims are patentable due to their respective dependencies on either claim 1 or claim 10, as well as for the specific features recited in those dependent claims. For example, claims 21 and 24 recites that the personal verification system is disposed remotely from the local computers and remotely from the remote computer. In Novoa, a file server

performs both user verification and user authentication, and thus it operates as both a remote computer and a personal verification system. Clearly, it cannot be separately disposed from itself, and thus Novoa does not disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 21 and 24.

Also, claims 20 and 23 recites that the remote computer makes the sole determination, based on the received password, as to whether or not to grant the user access to the common resources. Also, as recited in claims 20 and 23, when the user is granted access to the common resources, a user-requested portion of the common resources are sent to the one of the local computers of the user by way of the remote computer. In Novoa, only the file server 102 makes a user verification decision and a user authentication decision, whereby when a user is granted access to a network, requested data is sent to the user without the need of the file server 102. Thus, claims 20 and 23 are not anticipated by Novoa.

Still further, claims 19 and 22 have been amended to recite that only the remote computer determines whether or not a user of the one of the local computers is permitted or denied access to the common resources that corresponds to data stored at the remote computer. In Novoa, at best, a file server allows a user access to other resources on a network, after the file server has made both a user verification and a user authentication, whereby those other resources are not stored at the file server. Thus, claims 19 and 22 are not anticipated by Novoa.

The other cited art of record does not rectify the above-mentioned shortcomings of Novoa, and that all of the presently pending claims are patentable over the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 13, 2004

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